

Fatal Air Crash Hits SJ Firm Second Time



MANAGLED WRECKAGE: Two unidentified men examine badly mangled wreckage of plane that crashed Thursday and claimed life of Edward J. Beaudoin, 32, president of Beaudoin-Stueland Electric Co. of St. Joseph. Crash scene is tree-lined bank of Paw Paw river about a

quarter-mile east of Riverside road and a mile north of Ross field. Ice-covered river appears as white area across top portion of photo. (Staff photo).



PLANE SEVERES POWER LINE: A twin-engine plane piloted by Twin City businessman Edward Beaudoin severed high-voltage power line a mile north of Ross field and crashed Thursday, killing Beaudoin. Severed line cut power to the Auto Specialties Riverside plant and nearby homes. (Staff photos)

Partner Died In Plane In '69

E. J. Beaudoin Killed!

BY ALAN AREND
Staff Writer

A tragic coincidence took the life of a prominent Twin City businessman Thursday when the twin-engine plane he was piloting crashed into a utility pole and electrical lines approximately one mile north of Ross field.

Dead at the scene was Edward J. Beaudoin, 32,

president of Beaudoin-Stueland Electric Co. of St. Joseph. His partner died in a company plane crash three years ago. He was headed for Apache Junction, Ariz., to visit his parents for a few days. Beaudoin was flying a twin-engine Cessna 320-D plane owned by the company. He was the only person in the plane.

Nearly three years ago, in

late March, 1969, Beaudoin's former business partner, Joseph Stueland, was piloting a twin-engine plane that crashed into Finch mountain south of Crossville, Tenn. Five St. Joseph residents were killed in that crash, including Stueland, his wife, two sons and Frederick D. Crow, teenage friend of one of Stueland's sons. Exact time of yesterday's

crash has not been pin-pointed as yet, but state police from Benton Harbor believe the crash occurred around 12:15 p.m.

Witnesses who saw Beaudoin take off from Ross field told police it appeared that one of the plane's engines failed shortly after take-off, but started up again. The plane circled north of the airport as if to come back to land, when it disappeared, according to airport witnesses.

Sgt. Mel Osment of the Paw Paw State police post, first officer at the scene of the accident, told reporters witnesses told him the plane circled once as if coming in for a landing, but was too high and as it circled again it disappeared. Sgt. Osment said apparently Beaudoin was having engine trouble, but the engines seemed to catch on just prior to the point of impact.

Officials of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) from South Bend were called in to investigate the accident.

Police reported two witnesses heard a loud noise at the time of impact and saw billows (See back page, sec. 1, col. 7)

Golden Dolphin Open 'til 8 p.m. Adv.

FIRESALE continues thru Sat. Red Balloon. Adv.



EDWARD J. BEAUDOIN
Follows his partner

Governor Wins Transit Victory

Legislature Okays Gas Tax Hike To Rescue Systems

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Gov. William G. Milliken has what he wants—a two-cent gasoline tax increase on motorists and unprecedented funding for Michigan mass transit systems.

In a series of rapid moves Thursday, the legislature approved a compromise version of Milliken's controversial mass transit proposal which will increase the state gasoline tax from seven to nine cents a gallon starting about Feb. 1.

The governor said getting the bill through the legislature is "a major accomplishment." State Sen. James G. Fleming, R-Jackson, said implementation of the bill will be "a raid on the highway fund."

The two-cent increase will bring in about \$83 million a year. One-half cent of the increase—or about \$21 million annually—will help bail out failing mass transit systems

now and build new ones in the future. The rest will go for traditional road building and maintenance.

This is the first time in the state's history that gasoline taxes will be used for any purpose other than highway construction and maintenance.

"The mass transit portion of the bill is basically a raid on the highway fund to help financially bankrupt bus systems," said Fleming. "Only eight metropolitan areas it would benefit

and Detroit would get most of the money."

Fleming, chairman of the Senate Highway Committee, for months refused to allow committee consideration of the package and called Milliken "a spoiled brat."

Milliken, in turn, let his legislative arm-twisters loose on

(See back page, sec. 1, col. 1)

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Gast Reports Trip Offer In Return For Dog Vote

LANSING, Mich. (AP)—Two state representatives say they were offered free trips to California in return for votes to legalize dog racing in Michigan. Reps. Quincy R. Hoffman, R-Applegate, and Harry Gast, R-St. Joseph, said they had been offered the trips but would not identify who made the offer. Hoffman said last Thursday,

he was told the trip would run from about Dec. 20-24. He said he refused it because he did not want to be away over the holidays and has been consistently against dog racing.

Gast voted for the dog racing bill, which passed the House on a 56-47 vote Wednesday. The margin was the minimum needed for approval. The bill is

now pending in the Senate. Meanwhile Thursday, State Sen. James D. Gray, D-Warren, said he refused an offer of a trip to Florida because he feared the dog racing interests would then

(See back page, sec. 1, col. 5)



REP. HARRY GAST
St. Joseph Republican



DEBRIS SCATTERED: Debris from plane crash Thursday that killed Edward Beaudoin was scattered over wide area of Paw Paw river bluff north of Benton Harbor. Plane wheel is visible at bottom of bluff over section of wreckage in foreground. (Staff photo)

Car Guarantees Mean Little For Russian Owners

MOSCOW (AP) — Mrs. Sudakova is one of the fortunate few Russians to have a car, and her new Zhiguli came complete with a guarantee for 12,000 miles or one year. But there's no guarantee that parts will be available if the car breaks down.

She has been trying for more than two months to get a new

rubber door seal for the 5,500-ruble car. A ruble is worth about \$1.10. Mrs. Sudakova has complained to the newspaper Moscow Pravda about the delay.

"What guarantees the guarantee?" the newspaper said in a headline.

The best the Zhiguli service chief in Moscow could do was

promise to send her a letter when the part arrives from the factory several hundred miles away.

Service chief E. P. Frolov said there are nearly 30,000 new Zhigulis in Moscow and just one service station to handle complaints covered by the guarantee.

He said the station didn't have a rubber door seal because

that particular part is seldom faulty.

In general, Frolov conceded that work is lax and that he is flooded with repeat jobs because the mechanics are doing sloppy repairs.

Frolov hinted that part of the problem stems from the organization of the service network.

"Now here's someone who had the right idea—a Christmas card postmarked October 18th!"

Berrien On 1st Base In 'Adult Book' Battle

BY ROGER WELSHANS
Staff Writer

Only one of three adversary court hearings set for yesterday to determine if material in three Niles and Benton Harbor area adult stores were obscene were held.

The hearings were ordered by Berrien Prosecutor Ronald J. Taylor as part of a double-barreled attack on the bookstores which he accuses of selling obscene literature. At the hearing yesterday afternoon at the Red Arrow

Book Store, 2158 Red Arrow highway, Fifth District Judge Harry Laity declared 281 separate materials obscene and ordered them confiscated. Ray Mittan, III, son of State Rep. Ray Mittan, is named as the store owner.

Taylor named the three adult book stores as defendants in a Berrien circuit court civil lawsuit Dec. 8 alleging they violate the state public nuisance law, and served owners and store personnel with notice Dec. 9 that he plans

to prosecute them on high misdemeanor charges of sale and distribution of obscene material.

According to Taylor, the hearing held in the store yesterday was needed because the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled authorities can't seize alleged obscene material without first having a "prior adversary hearing" and judicial ruling that the material is obscene. The hearing met the high court's rule.

Stores named in Taylor's suit are Niles Adult Book Store, 208 North Front street, Niles, and alleged owner Ronald W. Sappenfield; Al's Adult Book Store, 138 Water street, Benton Harbor, and alleged owner Gayle Poe, and alleged sales clerk Dan Walls; and Red Arrow Book Store, also known as Benton Heights Book Store, 2158 Red Arrow highway, Benton township, and alleged owner Ray Mittan III, and alleged sales clerk Paul Yakel.

A hearing scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Thursday at Al's Book Store wasn't held because the attorney of the alleged owner, Gayle Poe, couldn't be present. The hearing will be rescheduled.

In a counter move, Poe has filed a federal district court civil suit in Grand Rapids seeking to halt Taylor's circuit court suit, and to declare the state's public nuisance law, as it applies to adult bookstores, unconstitutional.

A hearing at 9 a.m. in Niles wasn't held because police and an assistant prosecutor found the store empty when they arrived. Sappenfield, owner of the store, is believed by Taylor to reside in Michigan City, Ind.

Berrien Circuit Judge Julian Hughes had issued a temporary restraining order barring defendants from destroying or selling the alleged obscene material. Taylor said he is unsure at this time whether or not he will seek to prosecute Sappenfield for contempt of court or if he will use materials previously acquired from the store as basis for a warrant for Sappenfield's arrest.

The owner of the Red Arrow Book Store, Ray Mittan III, 26, was present at yesterday's hearing in his store. Taylor did not immediately charge him with selling or distributing obscene material, even after Judge Laity ruled some materials were obscene.

Young Mittan resides at 3215 Lakeshore drive, St. Joseph. He is the sole owner of the store, and it is his only occupation. He has operated it since Dec. 1, 1971.

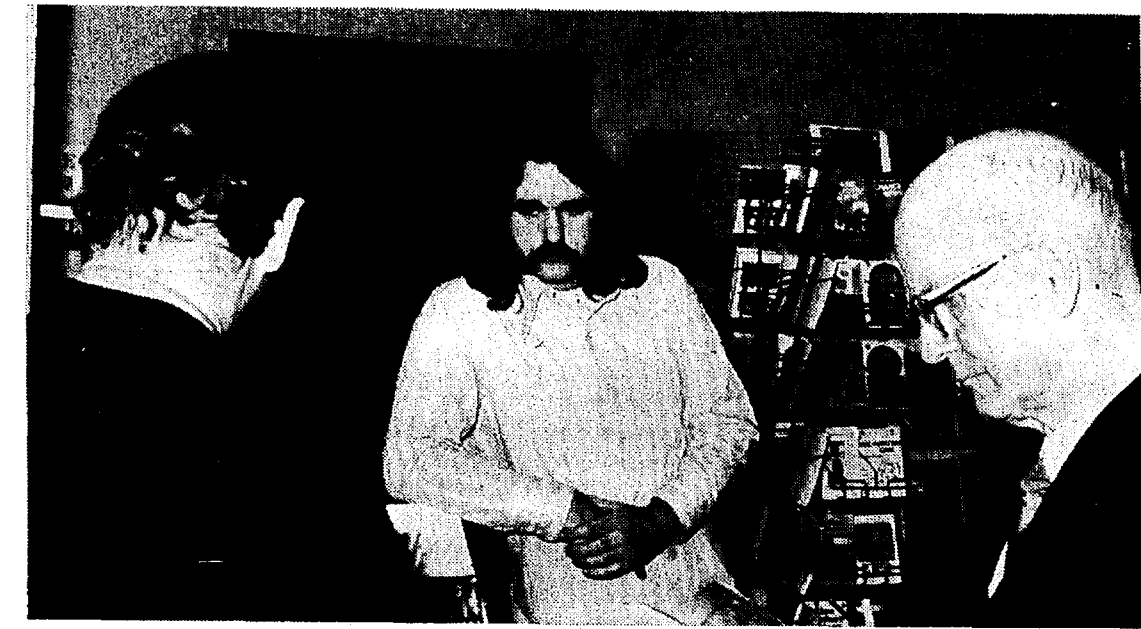
Mittan said he didn't think his store was a public nuisance. "I've talked with residents around here, and none that I've talked to seemed to mind my store," he said. "But, apparently, there was someone who did."

He said he wasn't sure if his father knew he owned the store, but added, "If he didn't before, he does now."

Taylor said his office will study the materials taken from the stores before deciding which ones to use as evidence during trial. He indicated any decision as to who and what will be charged will come only (See back page, sec. 1, col. 5)



A BOY AND A GIRL: This pair of German Shepherd-Collie puppies is waiting for a new home while lodged temporarily at the Berrien Humane society shelter, 641 South Crystal avenue, Benton township. One is a male and one a female. (Staff photo)



FORLORN: Ray C. Mittan, III, 26, looks on as Berrien Prosecutor Ronald J. Taylor (left) and Fifth District Judge Harry Laity (right) conduct adversary hearing yesterday afternoon in Mittan's adult bookstore. Mittan, son of State Rep. Ray Mittan, is owner of Red

Arrow Book Store, 2158 Red Arrow highway, Benton Heights. Laity was in store judging if material was obscene, and ruled some materials were obscene. (Staff photo).

Benton Hears Ideas For 2 Big Projects

Benton township planners last night heard two rezoning requests involving the Union street-Napier avenue section of Fairplain, one for a \$3.45 million apartment complex, the other for a relocated car dealership.

Klum-Olds Cadillac last night formally requested the rezoning of 5.66 acres of land on Napier avenue west of Union street from A-2 residential to D-1 commercial.

W. L. Klum, owner of the dealership presently located at 660 West Main street, Benton Harbor, said he wants the land rezoned because his business needs more space.

Another rezoning request, involving land a short distance from the Klum request, was forwarded by William Armstrong, a representative of

Edward Rose & Sons. The contractors from Kalamazoo want to construct a 371-unit apartment complex on about 17.2 acres directly behind Jewel-Osco stores on Napier avenue.

The company is only seeking rezoning of 7.5 acres running south from behind Jewel-Osco on Napier and St. Augustine church property on Union street to the northern boundaries of Fairplain East school.

The requested rezoning is from A-2 residential to C-multiple family. The apartments also would occupy an adjoining 9.7 tract that is owned by Rose & Sons and already zoned multiple family, Armstrong indicated.

W. L. Klum said his company also seeks to move because

pending construction of a new Main street will take a small slice from the front of the existing property.

Other factors cited by Klum were possible disruption during construction a new bridge and street and the possibility of access interference from the new bridge approach.

Klum said he has owned the land, located on the north side of Napier just west of Union street, for five years. A request by him for rezoning was denied two years ago. Since then there has been increased commercialism along Napier west of M-139.

A committee headed by Dr. Charles Duncan, with Robert Nametz and Earl Patterson as members, was appointed to study the proposed site and make a preliminary committee report at the planner's next regular meeting Dec. 28.

Klum said he will not request public hearings until the study committee's reports are made.

Armstrong said the proposed complex would consist of 251 one-bedroom units, and 120 two-bedroom units. He said the former would be rented for about \$135 a month; the later for about \$160 a month. Thirteen buildings would make up the complex, leaving about 57 per cent of the land open and usable for recreation he said.

Figures prepared by Rose & Sons indicated the completed project would be assessed at \$3,459,000, giving the township \$83,330 in added tax revenue.

Several residents near the proposed project voiced disapproval with the complex. The recurring objection among most of the residents was the fear of heavily increased traffic loads near the Fairplain East elementary school. They said a large number of young children use Union street to walk to the school and could be easily hit by a car.

Armstrong said he had no immediate solution to the problem, but had been working with traffic safety planners trying to develop a means of abating the danger.

Robert Nametz was appointed by James Benson,

planning board chairman, to head a committee of Dr. Duncan and Patterson to study the request. The first public hearing for the rezoning request was set for Jan. 25, when the committee will make its report.

In other business, planners: —Formed a committee consisting of Chester Jollay, Rev. Daniel Cook and Benson to study a special use permit request by the Rev. Edward F. Head. Rev. Head wants to use one side of a two-family dwelling at 3425 Territorial road for a church. The other side would serve as a parsonage, Rev. Head said.

—Appointed Rev. Cook and Benson to study a petition signed by four residents within 500 feet of Mrs. Ann Ballard, Route 4, Hicks avenue, to terminate a special use permit to keep horses on the Ballard property.

—Heard a committee report from Nametz favoring the rezoning, unless neighbors object, of lots 17, 18, and 19 of the Fairfax addition from A-2 residential to D-2 commercial. According to Nametz, the owner of the property, Frank Loomis, plans to build a professional building able to house two doctors on the land. Public hearing on the rezoning will be set as soon as Loomis requests it.

Lincoln Looks For Parks Commissioners

Applications from persons interested in serving on the new Lincoln township parks commission are being sought by the Lincoln township board, township Clerk Bernice Tretheway said yesterday.

Members of the six-man commission, voted into existence at the November general election, are to be appointed initially by the township board. Later they will be elected by township voters.

The commission will manage township parks and beaches. Commissioners will be paid for service at a so far undetermined rate.

Prospective commissioners should notify the board of their interest by letter, Mrs. Tretheway said.

Helpers In BH Give Santa A Nice Boost

Before turning his attention to the big drive being put on today for the Good Fellows fund by the Benton Harbor Exchange club and volunteers, Santa got an early lift from a report of \$135 in contributions in the last 24 hours.

A \$50 boost from a long-time booster, three generous \$25 contributions by a trio of donors, plus two five-spotters provided the pleasant morning report for the old gent.

It brought the total sum on hand to date toward the big job of helping the less fortunate have a happy Christmas to \$2,708.

Barentsen Candy Co., 147 Fifth street, Benton Harbor, headed by Leon Gideon, a former mayor of the city, accounted for the \$50 boost. Mr. Gideon's firm has been on the list of donors for a good many

years, and always in handsome style.

Joseph Sandalic, operator of a small grocery and filling station on Pipestone road out in the country, did himself proud with a \$25 contribution. It's a fine help for the less fortunate at the Christmas hour.

Robert and Joyce Davis, who live on North Shore drive with their fine family of three youngsters, accounted for another of the \$25 boosts.

And a group of proud young owners of that beautiful sports car, the Corvette, added 'to Santa's smile with the third \$25 grant of the day. They are members of the Corvette Coventry of Southwestern Michigan, which is the local chapter of a national organization of Corvette buffs.

The Daughters of Isabella, a group of women from the Catholic parishes of the community, extended their string of years as faithful contributors. They made it \$5.

And the final contributor asked modestly that he be identified only as A Friend. Thanks, Friend, for the fiver.

THE NEWS-PALLADIUM
Good Fellow
FUND



Three More Add Gifts To St. Joe Yule Fund

Let's hear it for the Herald-Press Good Fellow newbies who are out today to make the magic of Christmas come true.

Some of the old timers will want to cheer and cheer and shake down the thunder from the sky. The younger generation has a whole new set of calls for victory.

But it all adds up to the same thing. The Good Fellows will win this test against adversity today. They will make Christmas bright and cheerful for many youngsters.

The fact that few Good Fellows seldom see the good they do does not diminish their fervor for the cause.

There were three gifts in the Good Fellow mail this morning to give the newbies strong endorsement. The gifts totaled \$135 and made the total to date \$1,452.76 or \$2,047.24 to go to reach the minimum goal of \$3,500.

The \$2,047.24 needed to reach the \$3,500 will be raised today!

Teachers Get Raise

EAST LANSING, Mich. (AP)—The East Lansing Education Association ratified a new one-year contract with the school system Thursday.

While details of the pact were not released, both sides were reported to have agreed to a factfinder's study calling for a 5.5 per cent pay raise.

How can this be said with such certainty? The St. Joseph Lions, the Bridgman Lions, the Sigma Delta sorority girls and the Alpha Phi Omega fraternity boys have faced greater challenges in the past. In fact in 19 previous campaigns the newbies have always put the fund over the top.

So it's not hard to predict victory again today.

Cheering the Good Fellows today is \$100 from old friends, Marie and Curly Holland of Holland Construction Co.

Then comes \$10 in memory of Hank Richter and Frank Gillespie from an anonymous donor.

The Civic Benefit club added \$25 as they have been doing for so many years.

THE HERALD-PRESS
Good Fellow
FUND



YMCA To Hold Chess Tourney

A Twin Cities junior chess championship tourney will be conducted by the YMCA during the Christmas holiday period, according to Greg Prince, tourney director.

The chess competition will be staged at the Y in Benton Harbor on Dec. 28, 29 and 30. It will be open to all youngsters in the greater Twin Cities area up through 18 years of age. Participants will be divided into two divisions, 14 years and under, and 15-18 years. Play will begin for the younger division at 10 a.m. on the first day and at 2 p.m. for the older division.

Deadline for entries is noon on Saturday, Dec. 23, at the Y main desk. Entry fee is 75 cents per person. Each contestant must bring a standard size chess board and pieces for play.

Both Pooch, Master Put Behind Bars

BY SCOTT WILLIAMSON
Staff Writer

Employees of the Berrien Humane Society shelter were probably startled when they arrived for work this morning. A German Shepherd was tied outside the building with this note around his neck:

"My name is King. My owner is in the county jail for drunk and disorderly and will come to pick me up tomorrow. Signed, King."

State police from the Benton Harbor post said a man was at the door of a Sodus township residence allegedly creating a disturbance about 10:15 p.m., so police were summoned.

The man demanded to be taken home, but was arrested for being drunk and disorderly instead, troopers said. With the man was a German Shepherd named King.

King was left at the state police post, but he became restless, and was constantly barking.

So, according to Troopers Tom Stenback and Mike Kempher, King was taken to the shelter, 641 South Crystal avenue, Benton township, at 2:30 a.m.

Lodged in the county jail was King's owner, Johnnie L. Ritch, 36, who gave an address of general delivery, Sodus. It was believed King's "handwriting" closely resembles either Stenback's or Kempher's handwriting.



THE BERRIEN 21: Berrien county's 21-member board of commissioners held a final meeting Thursday. A 13-member board takes office in 1973, and 11 current

commissioners won't be back. The 21 are (front, from left) Michael Govatos, Ernest Chase, Frank Poorman, Jacquelyn Zerlaut, Warren Lake, Kenneth Wendzel,

Richard Fleming; (second row, from left) Sheridan Cook, Lamont Tufts, Carl Gnodtke, Edwin O'Brien, Victor Greer, Leslie Fischer, Lad Stacey, Otto Grau;

(third row, from left) Edward Grieger, Edward Mattix, R.J. Burkholz, Nancy Clark, T.J. "Jack" Carter, and Robert Pagel. (Staff photos)

Berrien Board Grows Ever Smaller

From 49 Members To 21--And, Come January, There'll Be Only 13



PRESIDENT: Trooper Robert Chute is the new president of Lodge 95, Fraternal Order of Police, Niles. He is assigned to the Michigan State Police post at Niles. (Staff photo)

BY BRANDON BROWN
Staff Writer

The 21-member Berrien county board of commissioners, 1969 successor to a 49-member board, took the last official acts of its existence Thursday at the courthouse in St. Joseph.

The 21-member board will itself be replaced by a 13-member board in January, so Thursday was a day for goodbyes by 11 commissioners who won't return.

In final action, the board granted \$75,000 from the 1972 county contingency fund to the county parks and recreation commission (PRC). It approved making a request for \$107,798 in federal funds for a Youth Service and Assistance Bureau to complement the planned new juvenile detention and rehabilitation center at Berrien Center. It also received an accountant's report showing

county-owned Berrien General hospital has had a \$676,488 net loss from 1968 through 1972.

The \$75,000 for PRC land acquisition and development stirred the most debate, with two commissioners opposed because county voters turned down parks millage last August.

Commissioner Carl Gnodtke, who introduced it, said it's a case of buy now or perhaps lose parkland forever and noted the \$75,000 is "not earmarked for any one specific project," as several are under consideration.

"The public said no, and emphatically said no," said Commissioner Kenneth Wendzel. Commissioner R.J. Burkholz concurred. They cast the two no votes.

Burkholz moved to table the measure 30 days because some of the public—he apparently referred to residents of Boyle Lake, a south-county site eyed by the PRC as a park—are opposed. The tabling lost in voice vote and commissioners approved the \$75,000 transfer in a 16-2 vote, with 2 absent.

Commissioner Nancy Clark introduced the Youth Service and Assistance Bureau fund request as a necessity if the planned 41-bed juvenile center

at Berrien Center is not to be filled to overflowing.

The bureau's thrust, according to Judge Ronald Lange of Berrien juvenile and probate court, is to reach pre-delinquents and keep them out of further trouble "so I heartily endorse it."

The resolution taps the 1973 county budget for \$3,189 in matching funds. It was okayed, 20-0.

As promised earlier, county commissioners Thursday began getting an insight into the financial plight of the county's Berrien General hospital at Berrien Center.

Willis "Bud" Hartwell, of Chicago certified public accountants Wolf and Co., presented a financial report for 1968-72 showing a net loss for that period of \$676,488 and a fund balance last Sept. 30 of \$2.7 million or \$385,000 below the fund balance at the start of 1968.

This "rather consistent trend" downward must be reversed or BGH will have "severe" financial trouble in the future, Hartwell said.

He noted that the \$2.7 million in the Sept. 30 fund balance actually represents \$1.9 million in fixed assets like buildings, and \$1 million in liquid assets which includes \$380,000 donated only recently by county commissioners.

The hospital also has some \$250,000 in liabilities, leaving \$450,000—mostly in patient accounts receivable and inventory, he said.

The \$450,000 left over at the end of 1972 as working capital is "not that unhealthy now," he noted later.

But if the hospital is to slow the downward financial trend, he said, it must:

—Generate more income. This is difficult because Medicare-Medicaid payments are fixed at cost, and these patients represent 62 per cent of the hospital's acute patient load.

—Cut expenses, for example by cutting employees. This is difficult because for every \$100,000 the hospital cuts, Medicare-Medicaid would cut at least \$82,000, meaning the real cut would only be \$38,000.

—Continue county financing for the hospital. BGH has been able to pay its bills despite large annual losses by not replacing aging plant and equipment. If county government funded BGH annually, it would relieve the hospital of the burden of financing indigent

patients.

Hospital Administrator Richard Goodman outlined the hospital's method of dunning deadbeats for bill collections, and BGH Board Chairman Edward Mattix noted the hospital has possibly the lowest ratio of employees to patients (291 fulltime and 330 total employees versus 207-208 patients) anywhere.

Mattix welcomed suggestions on better ways of running the hospital. County board of commissioners' Chairman Lad Stacey indicated commissioners and BGH representatives will talk

again to get the "total picture" at the hospital.

Commissioners Thursday also:

—Presented a resolution of honor to Fifth District court Judge Harry Laity, who's retiring after 12 years as Benton Harbor municipal judge and 4 years on the district court bench.

—Adopted a resolution extending sympathy to the family of Niles State Trooper Steven DeVries, 32, slain Oct. 12 in the wake of a Niles bank robbery.

—Okayed applying to the Office of Criminal Justice for a \$57,175 grant—including \$9,834 in county matching funds—to buy additional communications equipment for the Berrien sheriff's department.

—Approved a revamped county employee pension plan that pays retirees more by tapping employees for 3 per cent of their gross earnings and the county for up to \$702 per employee per year. It goes next to the Internal Revenue Service and state pension commission for approval and would take effect in January.

—Adopted a resolution noting severe lakefront erosion at Michiana, Grand Beach, Bridgman and St. Joseph, and urging state-federal officials to study and correct it.

—Upped payment for employee mileage from 10 to 12 cents a mile.

—Voted to spend \$1,117.01 for office furniture for Judge-elect Zoe Shaffer of Berrien probate court.

—Renewed the county's membership in the Michigan Association of Counties for 1973 at \$4,180.

—Bought bond coverage of county officials and employees for 1973-1976 from low bidder Rutz-Smith Agency, Inc., for \$3,081.48.

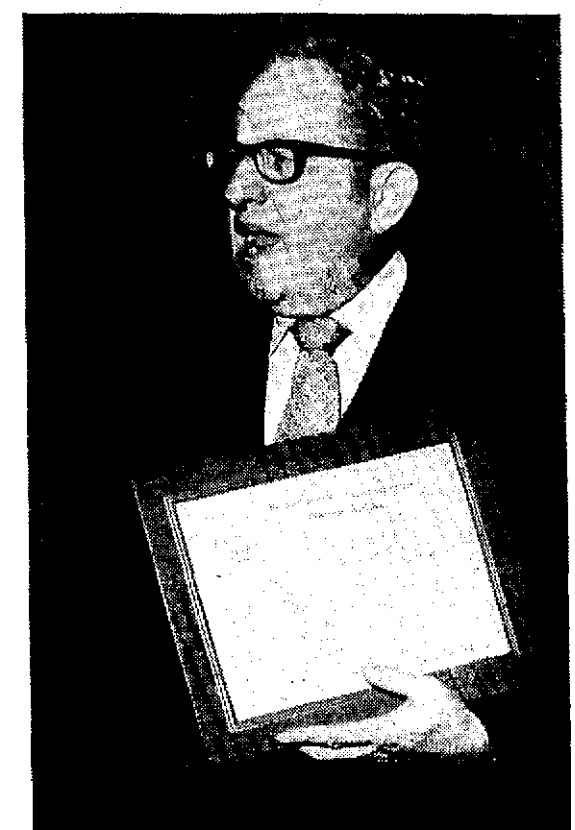
—Appointed, in accord with state law, Stanley E. Wolkins as chief dog warden of the county for 1973.

Commissioners also:

—Voted between O.D. Proseus of Buchanan and Dale Douthett of Three Oaks for a six-year term on the county road commission ending in 1978. Douthett, a Three Oaks bank land appraiser and gravel pit operator, was elected.

—Heard a prediction by Finance Chairman Ernest Chase that the county's general fund will end the year in the black.

—Sent to the social services



AND STILL GOING: Sheridan Cook, 65, of Niles, a Berrien county commissioner since 1937, was one of 11 members of the present 21-member board presented with framed certificates Thursday, the board's final meeting. The 11 won't be back. A new 13-member board takes over in January.

committee a request by Berrien County Action, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, to be designated by the county board as a community action agency.

—Designated Dr. John Manion of Memorial hospital, St. Joseph, as an assistant county physician with authority to perform five-day "holds" on psychiatric patients.

—And presented a special plaque to Chairman Lad Stacey, who steps down at the close of 1972, plus framed resolutions of appreciation for service to 11 members of the present board who will not

return in 1973.

Stacey said he is extremely proud of the board over its four-year life because he's seen no partisan fights, no rural-city feuds, and "no Mason-Dixon line..."

The 11 are led by Sheridan Cook, 65, of Niles, a board member from 1937 through 1972, and include: Robert Pagel, Mrs. Jacquelyn Zerlaut, T.J. "Jack" Carter, Edwin O'Brien, Warren Lake, Ernest Chase, Richard Fleming, Edward Grieger, Lamont Tufts and Michael Govatos.

The new board meets to organize Jan. 2.

Zollar's Ag Market Bill Near Signing

BY BRANDON BROWN
Staff Writer

LANSING — Sen. Charles Zollar's agricultural marketing bill breezed through the state Senate 23-7 Thursday and onto Gov. William Milliken's desk, where it awaits signing.

Zollar, a Benton Harbor Republican, said he expected no problems with signing. The bill takes effect 90 days thereafter.

It would give fruit and vegetable growers the power to organize for price bargaining purposes with processors. It would expire in 1976. Processors lobbied against it intensely, Zollar reported. But the Senate okayed it 23-7 shortly before noon Thursday, he said.

Some features of the bill: Growers can organize on a single-commodity basis for the entire state, but only for perishable fruits and vegetables.

Fifty per cent or more of the growers and tonnage of a commodity must approve forming a commodity bargaining organization. Each commodity group would organize separately.

Once the organization establishes a price with processors, the price applies to all of that commodity in Michigan.

An organization must complete bargaining 30 days before harvest. If it and processors deadlock, a third-party judge issues a binding decision on the commodity price by choosing either the processor offer or growers' request—but nothing in between.

The judge is named from among candidates nominated by growers and processors.

The bill cleared the House Wednesday, 66-32, and went to the Senate Thursday.



PROMOTED: Gordon Perkins, of the Berrien Springs-Oronoko township police department, has been promoted to lieutenant on the force. He joined force in July, 1971, and had been a sergeant. Promotion was announced by Victor Yost, police chief.



AUDITOR: Willis E. Hartwell, Chicago CPA, tells Berrien County commissioners Thursday their county hospital has lost \$676,488 over five years and must either earn more money, cut expenses, or receive supplements from commissioners. It avoided going into hole by spending depreciation funds to meet operating losses.

Coloma-Watervliet To Greet Santa

COLOMA — Santa Claus arrives at 2 p.m. Saturday in downtown Coloma.

He will arrive via fire truck. Afterward he will travel to the Coloma high school where Watervliet and Coloma area children may view a movie free of charge, courtesy of the Coloma Lions Club and the Coloma-Watervliet-Paw Paw Lake Area Chamber of Commerce.